

2004 AREA 2A PACIFIC HALIBUT HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
December 5, 2003

3.3 Human Environment

The human environment section of an environmental assessment (EA) is subdivided into sub-sections, describing fishery management and fishery sectors for Pacific halibut. Section 3.3.1 provides an overview of fisheries that catch Pacific halibut as either a target species or incidentally. The subsequent sub-sections, 3.3.2 through 3.3.7, describe, respectively, the tribal fishery, the non-tribal commercial fishery, and the sport fisheries along the West Coast. The 2004 revisions to management of the Pacific halibut fishery in Area 2A were subject to a categorical exclusion from further NEPA analysis in an EA or an environmental impact statement. This document is intended to update regular information that NMFS collects on the annual halibut fisheries.

Pacific Halibut Fishery Overview

The Pacific halibut fishery is managed by the IPHC with implementing regulations set by the federal governments of Canada and the United States (US) in their respective waters. The IPHC, responsible for the health of the Pacific halibut resource, conducts extensive stock assessments to ensure that the health and size of the population is correctly estimated. The IPHC then decides on total removals of Pacific halibut in all management areas off the US and Canada at their annual meeting. All allocative responsibility and consequent management measures are the responsibility of the individual federal governments. For the US in Area 2A (US West Coast), NMFS Northwest Region is responsible for allocation and management with close coordination with Washington and Oregon's state agencies (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Area 2A Fisheries

The Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A are allocated a small percentage, less than 2%, of the overall TAC (Table 3.2). The Plan details allocations within the Area 2A TAC. The Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A TAC to Washington treaty Indian tribes in Subarea 2A-1 and 65 percent to non-Indian fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-treaty fisheries is divided into three shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 36.6 percent, the Oregon/California sport fishery receiving 31.7 percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 31.7 percent. The commercial fishery is further divided into two sectors: a directed (traditional longline) commercial fishery that is allocated 85 percent of the 31.7 percent (26.95 percent of the non-treaty harvest), and an incidental (troll salmon) commercial fishery that is allocated 15 percent of the 31.7 percent (4.75 percent of the non-treaty harvest). The directed commercial fishery in Area 2A is confined to southern Washington (south of 46°53'18" N. lat.), Oregon, and California. When the Area 2A TAC is above 900,000 lb, longline vessels participating in the primary sablefish season are permitted to retain some amounts of halibut taken incidentally in that fishery. The Plan also divides the sport fisheries into seven geographic areas, each with separate allocations, seasons, and bag limits. A license from the IPHC is required to participate in the non-treaty commercial Pacific halibut fishery.

The non-treaty directed commercial fishery in Area 2A is confined to south of Point Chehalis,

Washington, Oregon, and California. Area 2A licenses, issued for the directed commercial fishery, have decreased from 428 in 1997 to 260 in 2003 (Table 3.5). For 2001 through 2003, the directed commercial licenses have also allowed longline vessels to retain halibut caught incidentally north of Point Chehalis during the primary sablefish season because the TAC in Area 2A was above 900,000 lbs in those years. Area 2A licenses issued for the incidental salmon troll fishery increased from 275 in 1997 to 323 in 2003. In Area 2A, 2003 federal regulations permitted the incidental salmon troll fishery to retain 1 halibut (minimum 32") per 3 chinook, plus 1 extra halibut, with a maximum of 35 incidental halibut landed per trip.

Year	TAC for all IPHC areas (lb)	Area 2A TAC (lb)	% of Total TAC
1998	71,820,000	820,000	1.14%
1999	74,060,000	760,000	1.03%
2000	67,500,000	830,000	1.23%
2001	73,180,000	1,140,000	1.56%
2002	74,920,000	1,310,000	1.75%
2003	74,920,000	1,310,000	1.75%

The allocations to the four fishery groups (tribal fishery, non-Indian commercial fishery, Washington sport fishery, and Oregon/California sport fishery) since 1988 (first year of annual Catch Sharing Plans) are shown in Table 3.3. Catches by group are shown in Table 3.4.

Year	Total Area 2A Quota	Treaty Indian	Tribal Reserve	Non-Indian Commercial	Non-Indian Sport	Washington Sport	Oregon Sport
1989	650,000	130,000	22,000	274,000	224,000	167,000	57,000
1990	520,000	130,000	--	195,000	195,000	118,950	76,050
1991	450,000	112,500	--	168,750	168,750	102,938	65,812
1992	650,000	162,500	--	243,750	243,750	148,687	95,063
1993	600,000	150,000	--	225,000	225,000	137,250	87,750
1994	550,000	192,500	--	178,750	178,750	109,037	69,713
1995	520,000	182,000	--	107,120	230,880	123,760	107,120
1996	520,000	182,000	--	107,120	230,880	123,760	107,120
1997	700,000	245,000	--	144,235	310,765	166,530	144,235
1998	820,000	287,000	--	168,961	364,039	195,078	168,961

1999	760,000	266,000	--	156,598	337,402	180,804	156,598
2000	830,000	315,500	--	163,097	351,403	188,307	163,097
2001	1,140,000	424,000	--	274,918 ^{1/}	441,082	214,110	226,972
2002	1,310,000	483,500	--	350,390 ^{2/}	476,111	214,110	262,001
2003	1,310,000	483,500	--	332,000 ^{3/}	494,500	232,499	262,001

1/ Includes 47,946 lb taken as incidental catch in the limited entry longline primary sablefish fishery.

2/ Includes 88,389 lb taken as incidental catch in the limited entry longline primary sablefish fishery.

3/ Includes 70,000 lb provided for incidental catch in the limited entry longline primary sablefish fishery; 2003 was the first year a specific allocation amount was provided to the primary sablefish fishery.

YEAR	TOTAL CATCH	TRIBAL TOTAL	COMMERCIAL TOTAL	SPORT TOTAL
1988	746,676	105,800	392,000	248,876
1989	809,429	152,400	330,000	327,029
1990	542,866	131,400	203,000	208,466 ^{1/}
1991	518,962	127,500	233,000	158,462 ^{1/}
1992	700,077	168,400	282,000	249,677 ^{1/}
1993	764,484	152,031	366,000	246,453 ^{1/}
1994	566,978	198,639	182,000	186,339 ^{1/}
1995	547,892	190,569	121,125	236,198 ^{1/}
1996	537,562	181,184	127,521	228,857 ^{1/}
1997	750,700	243,258	152,570	354,872 ^{1/}
1998	856,560	307,145	166,424	382,991 ^{1/}
1999	769,812	272,018	160,955	337,339 ^{1/}
2000	816,337	317,630	159,350	344,038
2001	1,125,493	429,150	250,900	445,443 ^{1/}
2002	1,251,875	486,644	366,000	399,231 ^{1/}
2003	1,234,327	491,776	338,242	404,309 ^{1/}

^{1/} Sport catch estimates from California are not available; this estimate assumes the CA allocation was harvested.

Area 2A Licenses

Effective in 1995, three types of IPHC licenses were issued for Area 2A fisheries: a directed commercial license, a license to land halibut caught incidentally in the salmon troll fishery, and a charter license. No vessel may participate in more than one of these three fisheries per year. The numbers of IPHC licenses issued for Area 2A in recent years are shown in Table 3.5. Directed commercial licenses also allow longline vessels to retain halibut caught incidentally north of Point Chehalis during the primary sablefish season.

Commercial fishers must obtain an IPHC license to harvest halibut commercially in Area 2A. Since

1994, commercial fishers have had to choose between a license for the directed fishery or a license for retaining halibut incidentally in the salmon troll fishery. Fishers licensed to fish for halibut in the commercial halibut fishery could not obtain an IPHC charterboat (sport) license nor operate the vessel in the sport fisheries in Area 2A. Conversely, fishers participating in the Area 2A sport fisheries could not participate in either of the commercial fisheries for halibut. In the sport fishery, only charterboat owners/operators must obtain an IPHC license; IPHC licenses are not required for individual anglers nor private boats.

Table 3.5. IPHC Licenses issued for Area 2A.			
Year	Directed Fishery	Incidental Catch in Salmon Troll	Charterboat
1995	350	124	132
1996	403	123	135
1997	428	275	139
1998	363	264	141
1999	286	284	126
2000	268	235	130
2001	320 ^{1/}	345	133
2002	252 ^{1/}	331	130
2003	260 ^{1/}	323	127

1/ Includes licenses for vessels retaining halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA.

Tribal Fisheries

Twelve western Washington tribes possess and exercise treaty fishing rights to halibut, including the four tribes that possess treaty fishing rights to groundfish. Specific halibut allocations for the treaty Indian tribes began in 1986. The tribes did not harvest their full allocation until 1989, when the tribal fleet had developed to the point that it could harvest the entire Area 2A TAC. In 1993, judicial confirmation of treaty halibut rights occurred and treaty entitlement was established at 50 percent of the harvestable surplus of halibut in the tribes' combined U&A fishing grounds. In 2000, the courts ordered an adjustment to the halibut allocation for 2000-2007, to account for reductions in the tribal halibut allocation from 1989-1993. For 2000 through 2007, the non-tribal fisheries will be transferring at least 25,000 lb per year to the tribal fisheries, for a total of 200,000 lb to be transferred to the tribal fisheries over that period. Tribal allocations are divided into a tribal commercial component and the year-round ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) component. Tribal allocations and catches are shown in Table 3.6.

Since 1995, tribal commercial halibut fisheries have started at the same time as Alaskan and Canadian commercial halibut fisheries, generally in mid-March. The tribal halibut allocation is divided so that approximately 80–85% of allocation is taken in brief open competition derbies, in which vessels from all halibut tribes compete against each other for landings. In 2003, two of these “unrestricted” openings were held in the spring: a 48-hour opening on March 1-3 and a 36-hour opening on April 15-16. In

addition to these unrestricted openings, 15-20% of the tribal halibut allocation is reserved for “restricted” fisheries, in which participating vessels are restricted to a per trip and per day poundage limit for halibut. Three restricted opening opportunities were available in 2003, from March 1-31 and April 2-6, and from April 23-30. Similar to the unrestricted openings, these restricted openings are available for vessels from all halibut tribes.

Table 3.6. Treaty Tribe Halibut Allocations and Catches, Dressed Weight				
Year	Commercial Allocation	Commercial Catch	C&S Allocation	C&S Catch
1992	152,500	155,000	10,000	14,200
1993	136,000	138,000	14,000	15,800
1994	176,500	187,700	16,000	10,900
1995	171,000	176,400	11,000	14,200
1996	168,000	168,000	14,000	15,000
1997	230,000	228,500	15,000	14,800
1998	272,000	295,600	15,000	10,500
1999	256,000	264,000	10,000	10,500
2000	305,000	312,000	10,500	17,500
2001	406,500	413,200	17,500	16,000
2002	467,500	472,000	16,000	27,000
2003	456,500	464,776	27,000	^{1/}

^{1/} 2003 catch estimates not yet available.

Non-Tribal Commercial Fisheries

The commercial fishery has been divided into two components since 1995: a directed commercial fishery (e.g., the traditional longline fishery) and an incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery. The directed commercial fishery is restricted to the area south of Point Chehalis, WA. Table 3.4 shows the quotas (allocations after 1987) and catches. In 2001 through 2003, the overall Area 2A TAC was high enough to allow incidental halibut retention in the limited entry, longline primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA. Incidental halibut retention in the sablefish fishery is only available in years when the TAC is above 900,000 lb.

In 2002 and 2003, participants in the commercial fishery have been subject to a voluntary closure off the northern coast of Washington to protect yelloweye rockfish, known as the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). The boundary for the YRCA changed between 2002 and 2003 from a rectangle to a “C”-shaped area (see the sport fishery description in Washington’s North coast subarea for more details).

Beginning in 2003, non-tribal commercial vessels operating in the directed commercial fishery for halibut in Area 2A, including retention of incidental halibut during the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA, are required to fish outside of a mandatory closed area, known as the Rockfish

Conservation Area (RCA), that extends along the coast from the U.S./Canada border south to 40°10' N. lat. The large depth-based RCA was implemented to protect certain overfished groundfish species. The RCA boundaries are eastern and western boundary lines created by drawing straight lines between a series of latitude/longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the boundaries approximate specific depth contours. The RCA boundaries for 2003 were as follows: between the U.S./Canada border and 46°16' N. lat. (Washington/Oregon border), the eastern boundary of the RCA extends to the shoreline; between 46°16' N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat., the RCA is defined along an eastern boundary approximating 27 fm; and between the U.S./Canada border and 40°10' N. lat., the RCA is defined along a western boundary approximating 100 fm. Salmon trollers may fish within the RCA and retain halibut caught incidentally, but may not retain most groundfish species caught within the RCA.

Salmon are targeted with troll gear off all three West Coast states. The ocean commercial salmon fishery, both non-treaty and treaty, is under federal management with a suite of seasons and total allowable harvest. The Council manages commercial fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles offshore), while the states manage commercial fisheries in state waters (0-3 miles). Beside troll gear, salmon are also targeted with gillnets and/or tanglenets in the mouths of rivers. Although the gillnet/tanglenet fishery does not technically occur in Council-managed waters, it may have some impact on groundfish that migrate through that area during part of their life cycle. The West Coast salmon fisheries primarily harvest chinook or king salmon and coho or silver salmon. Pink salmon are landed in odd-numbered years. The majority of salmon are landed in California with Washington and Oregon both having significantly fewer landings. The salmon troll fishery does have an incidental catch of Pacific halibut and groundfish, including yellowtail rockfish. Halibut are caught incidentally off Washington and Oregon, while groundfish are caught off all three states.

Table 3.7. Commercial fishery catch statistics.				
Year	Fishery	Quota	Catch	Days Open
1981		200,000	202,000	56
1982		200,000	211,000	49
1983		200,000	265,000	26
1984		300,000	431,000	35
1985		500,000	493,000	31
1986		550,000	564,000	19
1987		550,000	548,000	12
1988		330,000	392,000	5
1989		274,000	330,000	2
1990		195,000	203,000	2
1991		168,750	233,000	1 ^{1/2}
1992		243,750	282,000	2 ^{1/2}
1993		225,000	366,000	1 ^{1/2}
1994		178,750	182,000	3 ^{1/2}
1995	Directed	91,052	119,000	7 ^{1/2}
	Incidental	16,068	2,125	60

1996	Directed	91,052	118,000	2 ^{1/}
	Incidental	16,068	9,521	60
1997	Directed	122,600	148,000	1 ^{1/}
	Incidental	21,635	19,000	60
1998	Directed	143,617	151,500	4 ^{1/}
	Incidental	25,344	13,416	153
1999	Directed	133,108	157,000	2 ^{1/}
	Incidental	23,490	9,955	60
2000	Directed	138,632	149,000	3 ^{1/}
	Incidental	24,464	22,350	76
2001	Directed	192,926	193,600	6 ^{1/}
	Incidental - Salmon	34,046	34,100	72
	Incidental - Sable	47,946	23,200	78
2002	Directed	222,700	260,000	3 ^{1/}
	Incidental - Salmon	39,300	41,000	112
	Incidental - Sable	88,389	65,000	214
2003	Directed	222,700	231,000	4 ^{1/}
	Incidental - Salmon	39,300	41,917	98
	Incidental - Sable	70,000 ^{2/}	65,325	184

1/ Since 1991, directed commercial halibut fishing has been restricted to 10-hour per day openings.

2/ In 2003, a cap of 70,000 lb was placed on this fishery to maintain it as an incidental fishery.

Sport Fishery in Washington

Sport fishing for halibut in Washington is divided into four subareas for management and catch allocation purposes: WA Inside Waters (Puget Sound) subarea, WA North Coast subarea, WA South Coast subarea, and Columbia River subarea (which is shared with Oregon). The WA Inside Waters Subarea includes all waters east of the Sekiu River mouth and includes Puget Sound, most of the Strait of Juan De Fuca, the San Juan Islands area, Hood Canal and Admiralty Inlet. The WA North Coast Subarea is the area west of the Sekiu River mouth and north of the Queets River. The WA South Coast Subarea lies to the south of Queets River and north of Leadbetter Point, WA. The Columbia River subarea lies between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon, Oregon, and is shared with Oregon. The allocations for this subarea are derived from both the Washington and Oregon sport allocations.

WA Inside Waters (Puget Sound) Subarea

A free halibut catch record card is required to catch halibut in Washington inside waters. The number of catch record cards issued is used as the estimate of the number of individuals who fish for halibut in this area. Most halibut fishing is done in conjunction with fishing for other species such as salmon or lingcod. The estimated catch of halibut in this area is shown in Table 3.8. The vast majority of the halibut catch in inside waters is taken by private boat anglers. Most of the Washington inside waters sport catch of halibut is taken in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In 2000, the western boundary of this sub-area was moved from the Bonilla-Tatoosh line eastward to the mouth of the Sekiu River, with a corresponding quota transfer from this subarea to the North Coast subarea. In 2002, this subarea was further divided into two

regions with two seasons, the Eastern Region (East of Low Point) and the Western Region.

Table 3.8. Seasons, restrictions and catches of halibut in Washington Inside waters.						
YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	DAYS OPEN	QUOTA	ACTUAL CATCH
1987	2/1 - 9/30	2	30"	242	none	184,259
1988	3/1 - 6/15	2	none	107	207,000 ^{1/2}	37,083
1989	4/8 - 6/15 6/16 - 8/11 (Fri only)	2	none	78	78,000	37,809
1990	4/16 - 6/15	2	none	61	39,355	57,698
1991	5/4 - 6/16 (closed Tues) 6/22 - 6/30 (Sat, Sun)	2	none	42	34,021	33,789
1992	5/9 - 7/15	2	none	68	48,323	51,068
1993	5/13 - 7/18 (closed Wed)	2	none	58	44,606	34,753
1994	5/2 - 7/5 (closed Wed)	1	none	56	35,328	37,260
1995	5/25 - 7/29 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	48	34,653	38,500
1996	5/23 - 7/27 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	48	34,653	40,489
1997	5/22 - 8/10 (Thur-Mon)	1	none	59	46,628	86,733
1998	5/22 - 8/3 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	54	57,191	73,279
1999	5/27 - 7/12 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	35	52,623	56,375
2000	5/27 - 7/27 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	46	49,136	53,817
2001	5/17 - 7/22 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	49	57,393	58,710
2002	Eastern Region: 5/9 - 7/12 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	47	57,393	39,915
	Western Region: 5/23 - 7/26 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	47		
2003	Eastern Region: 5/8 - 7/18 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	52	63,278	68,300
	Western Region: 5/22 - 8/1 (Thur - Mon)	1	none	52		

^{1/2} Quota was for north coast and inside waters.

WA North Coast Subarea

Sport fishing for halibut along the north coast was at a low level until the mid-1980s when catches increased. Prior to 1983, annual catches were less than 10,000 lb (4.5 mt). In 1983, catches began to increase and peaked in 1987 at approximately 190,000 lb (86.2 mt). Subsequent annual catches have changed as a result of the catch sharing plan. In 2000, the eastern boundary of this subarea was moved from the Bonilla-Tatoosh line eastward to the mouth of the Sekiu River, with a corresponding quota transfer from the Puget Sound subarea to this subarea. Most of the anglers operating in this subarea are out of Neah Bay. In 2002, the halibut "hotspot," an area with high interception of halibut in the sport fishery, was extended roughly 4 miles south. Participants in the halibut sport fishery in IPHC Area 2A reported that waters south of the historic halibut hotspot had a high incidence of yelloweye rockfish interception. Because yelloweye rockfish is an overfished species and its retention was prohibited in WA recreational fisheries in 2002, the mandatory closure for the halibut sport fishery in Area 2A was extended to protect yelloweye rockfish. In 2002, the mandatory closure for the halibut sport fishery was defined by the following coordinates: 48° 18' N. lat., 125° 11' W. long.; 48° 18' N. lat., 124° 59' W. long.; 48° 00' N. lat., 125° 11' W. long.; and 48° 00' N. lat., 124° 59' W. long. In 2003, this area was adjusted from a rectangular shaped area to an L-shaped area during January and February and to a C-shaped area for the remainder of the year to further protect yelloweye rockfish. Called the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, or YRCA, this C-shaped area off the northern Washington coast is designated as a mandatory closed area to recreational halibut and groundfish fishing and is a designated as a voluntary closure for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fleet and salmon trollers (Figure 3.5). In 2003, the YRCA is defined by straight lines connecting the following specific latitude and longitude coordinates in the order listed: 48°18' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.; 48°18' N. lat., 124° 59' W. long.; 48°11' N. lat., 124°59' W. long.; 48°11' N. lat., 125°11' W. long.; 48°04' N. lat., 125°11' W. long.; 48°04' N. lat., 124°59' W. long.; 48°00' N. lat., 124°59' W. long.; 48°00' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.; and connecting back to 48°18' N. lat., 125°18' W. long.

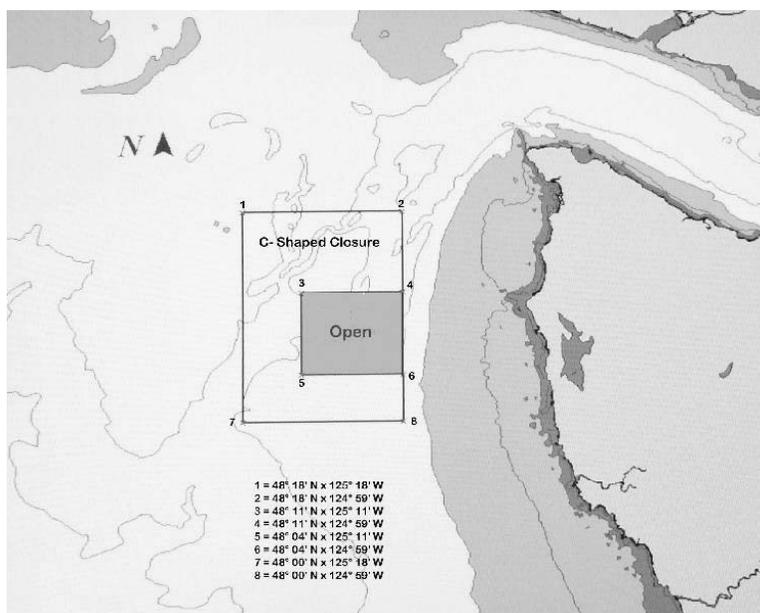


Figure 3.5. The Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) is a “C”-shaped area closed to recreational halibut and groundfish fishing off Washington’s North Coast.

Table 3.9. Seasons, restrictions and catches of halibut in the Washington North Coast area.						
YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	DAYS OPEN	QUOTA	ACTUAL CATCH
1987	2/1 - 9/30	2	30"	242	none	181,195
1988	5/1 - 6/30	2	none	61	207,000 ^L	134,316

1989	5/6 - 6/27 (Tue-Sat) 6/30 - 7/29 (Fri-Sat) 9/1 - 9/10 (7 days/week)	2	none	58	87,000	148,986
1990	5/1 to quota (Tue-Sat) 7/6 to quota (Fri-Sat) 8/31-quota (Tue-Sat)	1	none	74	74,595	73,588
1991	5/1 - 6/25 (7 days/week) 7/5 - 8/29 (Fri-Sat) 8/30 - 9/22 (7 days/week)	1	none	96	64,590	62,748
1992	5/1 - 5/25 (7 days/week) 7/3 - 9/30 (Fri only)	2	1 fish of any size plus 1 fish 40" or greater.	38	92,664	91,373
1993	5/1 - 6/25 (7 days/week) 7/2 - 7/17 (Fri-Sat)	1	none	68	85,507	104,860
1994	5/3 - 5/28 (Tue-Sat) 6/9 - 6/11	1	none	28	68,039	65,298
1995	5/2 - 5/27 (Tue-Sat) 7/1, 7/29, 9/3, 9/4	1	none	24	71,410	69,374
1996	5/1 - 7/20 (Tue-Sat)	1	none	59	71,410	71,803
1997	5/1 - 8/1 (Tue-Sat)	1	none	67	96,088	98,330
1998	5/1 - 7/25 (Tue-Sat)	1	none	62	96,052	97,176
1999	5/1 - 7/9 (Tue - Sat)	1	none	50	91,484	88,298
2000	5/2 - 6/16 (Tue - Sat) 7/1 & 7/4 (Sat & Tues)	1	none	36	99,773	101,114
2001	5/1 - 6/1, 6/16 (Tue - Sat) 7/1 - 7/4	1	none	29	108,030	109,771
2002	5/1 - 5/28 (Tue - Sat) 7/3 - 7/4 8/3	1	none	23	108,030	104,423
2003	5/1 - 5/17 (Tue - Sat) 5/23 - 5/24 6/18 - 6/21 8/9	1	none	20	113,915	109,738

^{1/2} Quota was for WA North Coast and WA Inside Waters (Puget Sound) subareas.

WA South Coast Subarea

By 1996 charterboats operating in this subarea had a strong enough presence for the Council to establish two seasons for the area: a May opening that accounted for all but 1,000 lb of the subarea quota with fishing open in the entire area; and a subsequent restricted nearshore fishery for the last 1,000 lb to allow for incidental catch in other sport fisheries. During the offshore fishery period, fishers operating in the nearshore area were allowed to land halibut only in the five open days per week (Sunday through

Thursday). From 1999 onward, the nearshore fishery was open 7 days per week to allow incidental landings of halibut for as long as possible, with the larger directed fishery keeping the 5 day per week season. In 2001, the Council changed the nearshore fishery allowance from 1,000 lb to the amount remaining in the quota after the fishery could no longer operate for an entire day without exceeding the quota.

Table 3.10. Seasons, restrictions and catches of halibut in the Washington South Coast subarea.						
YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	DAYS OPEN	QUOTA	ACTUAL CATCH
1987	2/1 - 9/30	2	30"	242	none	2,102
1988	4/1 - 9/30	2	none	183	3,000	3,150
1989	4/1 - 9/30	2	none	183	2,000	4,821
1990	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	5,000	5,096
1991	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	4,327	5,759
1992	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	7,700	23,143
1993	5/20 - 6/3 (Thurs-Fri)	1	none	5	7,137	10,072
1994	6/2 and 6/9	1	none	2	5,670	14,149
1995	5/1 - 7/4	1	none	65	15,222	15,610
1996	5/1 - 5/26	1	none	26	14,222	12,989
	5/27 - 9/30 (inshore)			<u>127</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,949</u>
	Total			153	15,222	14,983
1997	5/1 - 5/17	1	none	17	19,483	20,324
	5/18 - 5/20 (inshore)			<u>3</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>236</u>
	Total			20	20,483	20,560
1998	5/3 - 7/9 (Sun-Thurs)	1	none	50	35,648	**
	6/26 - 7/9 (inshore)			<u>14</u>	<u>1,000</u>	
	Total			50	36,648	37,030
1999	5/2 - 5/31 (Sun-Thurs)	1	none	22	31,081	29,729
	5/2 - 9/30 (inshore)			<u>152</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,850</u>
	Total			152	32,081	31,579
2000	5/2 - 5/29 (Sun-Thurs)	1	none	20	33,482	35,734
	5/2 - 6/2 (inshore)			<u>32</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total			32	34,482	35,734
2001	5/1 - 5/24, 6/6 (Sun-Thurs)	1	none	19	42,739	41,792
	5/1 - 5/24, 6/6 - 9/30 (inshore)			<u>131</u>	<u>available amt.</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total			131	42,739	41,792
2002	5/1 - 7/11 (Sun-Thurs), 7/12 - 9/30 (Fri-Sat) ^{1/}	1	none	52	42,739	
	5/1 - 9/30 (inshore)			<u>153</u>	<u>available amt.</u>	
	Total			153	42,739	38,518
2003	5/1 - 6/26 (Sun-Thurs), 6/27 - 9/30 ^{1/}	1	none	41	48,623	
	5/1 - 9/30 (inshore)			<u>97</u>	<u>available amt.</u>	
	Total			153	48,623	43,253

1/ Available fishing zones within the South Coast offshore subarea were restricted to a halibut hotspot approximately 34 miles offshore of Westport, Washington, and to the nearshore area between 47° N. lat., south to 46°38'10" N. lat., and east of 124°27' W. long. for the remainder of the 2002 season. Fishing in this area was restricted to 2 days per week.

Sport Fishery in Columbia River Subarea

In 1995, a new subarea was established for the area from Leadbetter Point, WA to Cape Falcon, OR. This subarea had previously been part of the southern Washington subarea. Table 3.11 shows the catches in this subarea. To date, most of the sport catch in this subarea has been landed in Ilwaco, WA. Oregon sport fishers also land an undetermined amount of halibut into ports on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. In 1999, the fishery in this subarea closed before September 30 for the first time. Since 1999, the days that this fishery remains open has shortened drastically despite increasing quotas. In 2002, a minimum size restriction was imposed of 32 in. or greater in length to make the size restriction for this area compatible with those in other subareas used by Oregon anglers.

Table 3.11. Seasons, restrictions and catches of halibut in the Columbia River subarea.						
YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	DAYS OPEN	QUOTA	ACTUAL CATCH
1995	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	4,617	1,426
1996	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	4,617	1,190
1997	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	6,215	1,326
1998	5/1 - 9/30	1	none	153	8,565	5,185
1999	5/1 - 8/29	1	none	121	7,474	7,423
2000	5/1 - 7/29	1	none	90	8,177	7,728
2001	5/1 - 6/14	1	none	45	10,487	8,808
2002	5/1 - 5/25	1	32" ^{1/}	25	11,188	9,764
2003	5/1 - 9/30	1	32" ^{1/}	153	11,923	10,008

1/ First halibut taken of 32" or greater in length.

Sport Fishery in Oregon

ODFW has been monitoring the sport halibut fishery since 1987. The data from the ODFW sampling program and history of regulations are shown in Table 3.12. Up until 1989, the entire Oregon coast was managed as a single unit. Beginning in 1989 (and continuing to date), the area north of Cape Falcon was included in the Washington coast subarea south of the Queets River. In 1991, the Council established a subarea extending from Cape Falcon south to the Nestucca River and managed it with a separate sub-quota. This area was created principally at the request of anglers from Pacific City who wanted the opportunity to pursue their small-boat fishery for a longer time period each summer. Also in 1991, the Council created a mid-summer season that was open only inside 30 fathoms which was designed to favor small-boat anglers. The 1994 long-term revisions of the Plan removed the Nestucca River division and defined the major Oregon sport fishery management areas as the Oregon central coast area from Cape Falcon south to the Siuslaw River, and the south coast area from the Siuslaw River to the California border. In 1999, the Council moved halibut fisheries south of Humbug Mountain into what were previously the California fisheries for Pacific halibut. Today, the two major Oregon sub-areas are the North Central Coast from Cape Falcon to the Siuslaw River and the South Central Coast from the Siuslaw River to Humbug Mountain.

Table 3.12. Oregon sport seasons, days open, and catch.

YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	TOTAL DAYS OPEN	QUOTA ^{1/}	ACTUAL CATCH
1987 ^{2/}	2/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	2	30	242	none	78,195
1988 ^{2/}	4/1 - 7/6 (7 days/wk)	2	3 ^{3/}	97	60,000	74,327
1989	4/1 - 6/28 (Wed-Sat)	2	32	50	57,000 ^{5/}	135,413
	8/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>61</u>		
	Total			111		
1990	4/4 - 6/21 (Wed-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	46	51,800	70,084
	8/18 - 8/22 (7 days/wk)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>5</u>	<u>22,250</u>	
	Total			51	74,050	
1991	5/1 - 7/7 (7 days/wk) ^{6/}	1	32	68	1,000	1,267
	4/3 - 6/1 (Wed-Sat) ^{7/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	36	40,000	38,787
	7/15 - 8/26 (7 days/wk) ^{8/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	43	8,100	834
	8/27 - 9/30 (7 days/wk) ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>35</u>	<u>15,012</u>	<u>13,578</u>
	Total			146 ^{10/}	64,112	54,466
1992 ^{11/}	5/1 - 7/10 (7 days/wk) ^{6/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	71	2,911	1,738
	5/1 - 7/10 (Wed-Sat) ^{7/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	41	60,131	57,164
	7/11 - 8/4 (7 days/wk) ^{8/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	25	8,333	706
	8/5 - 9/30 (Wed-Sun) ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>41</u>	<u>21,215</u>	<u>22,012</u>
	Total			137 ^{10/}	92,590	81,620
1993 ^{11/}	5/1 - 7/2 (7 days/wk) ^{6/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	63	2,564	5,191
	5/1 - 6/18 (Wed-Sat) ^{7/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	35	65,811	66,429
	7/12 - 8/3 (7 days/wk) ^{8/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	23	2,564	569
	8/4 - 8/8 (Wed-Sun) ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>5</u>	<u>14,530</u>	<u>22,298</u>
	Total			91 ^{10/}	85,469	94,487
1994 ^{11/}	5/4 - 5/20 (Wed-Sun) ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	13	53,641	63,013
	5/21 - 9/30 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	133	2,716	4,806
	8/6 - ^{12/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	<u>0^{12/}</u>	<u>11,543</u>	<u>0^{12/}</u>
	Total			146	67,900	67,819
1995 ^{11/}	5/4 - 5/27 (Thur-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	12	67,706	76,177
	<i>Central Coast</i> 5/28-7/4 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	38	3,314	4,953
	8/3, 8/4 ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	2	23,674	21,835
	<i>South Coast</i> 5/4-6/2 (Thur-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	14	5,999	5,526
	6/3-8/2 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	60	<u>1,500</u>	<u>12</u>
	Total				104,335	108,503
1996 ^{11/}	5/16-5/25(Thur-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	6	64,392	49,920
	<i>Central Coast</i> 5/26-8/1 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	67	6,629	3,491
	8/2, 8/3, 8/9 ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	3	23,673	35,267
	<i>South Coast</i> 5/16-6/1 (Thur-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	9	5,999	8,522
	6/2-8/1 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	60	<u>1,500</u>	<u>407</u>
	Total				104,335	97,607

YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	TOTAL DAYS OPEN	QUOTA ^{1/}	ACTUAL CATCH
1997 ^{11/}						
	5/8-10, 5/15-17,5/23-24	2	32+50 ^{4/}	8	86,703	110,806
<i>Central Coast</i>	5/25-7/31 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	68	8,925	4,428
	8/1 ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	1	31,876	20,968
	8/2-8/8 ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	7	---	
<i>South Coast</i>	5/8-5/17(Thur-Sat)	2	32+50 ^{4/}	6	8,077	7,295
	5/18-7/31 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	74	<u>2,019</u>	<u>676</u>
	Total				140,475	144,173
1998 ^{11/}						
	5/14-16, 5/21-23	2	32+50 ^{4/}	6	101,566	82,311
<i>Central Coast</i>	5/24 - 8/23 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	92	10,455	1,852
	8/7, 8/8, 8/14 ^{9/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	3	37,341	72,599
<i>South Coast</i>	5/14-16, 5/21-23	2	32+50 ^{4/}	6	9,462	8,773
	5/24 - 8/23 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	2	32+50 ^{4/}	92	<u>2,365</u>	<u>393</u>
	Total				161,189	165,928
1999 ^{11/}						
<i>North Coast</i>	5/1 - 9/30 (7days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	153	9,650	2,353
<i>Central Coast</i>	5/13-15, 5/20-22	1	32 ^{14/}	6	93,746	106,560
	8/6 ^{9/}	1	32 ^{14/}	1	34,463	28,329
<i>South Coast</i>	5/1 - 8/15 (7 days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	107	2,183	1,069
	5/13-15, 5/20-22	1	32 ^{14/}	6	<u>8,732</u>	<u>11,277</u>
	Total				148,774	149,588
2000 ^{11/}						
<i>North Coast</i>	5/1 - 9/30 (7days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	153	12,324	5,632
<i>Central Coast</i>	5/11-13, 5/18-19	1	32 ^{14/}	5	97,630	112,892
	9/22 ^{9/}	1	32 ^{14/}	1	35,893	7,203
<i>South Coast</i>	5/11-13, 5/18-19 ^{15/}	1	32 ^{14/}	5	<u>9,094</u>	<u>15,620</u>
	Total				154,941	141,347
2001 ^{11/}						
<i>North Coast</i>	5/1 - 9/30 (7days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	153	17,150	2,387
<i>Central Coast</i>	5/11-12, 5/18-19	1	32 ^{14/}	4	135,866	117,499
	8/3-4, 8/17, 9/21-22 ^{9/}	1	32 ^{14/}	5	49,951	85,139
<i>South Coast</i>	5/11-12, 5/18-19, 6/8 ^{15/}	1	32 ^{14/}	5	<u>12,656</u>	<u>14,568</u>
	Total				215,623	219,593

YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	TOTAL DAYS OPEN	QUOTA ^{1/}	ACTUAL CATCH
2002 ^{11/}						
<i>North</i>	5/1 - 9/30 (7days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	153	19,797	2,207
<i>Central</i>	5/10-11, 5/17-18, 6/7-8,	1	32 ^{14/}	8	156,835	113,851
<i>Coast</i>	6/21-22					
	8/2-3, 8/23-24, 9/18-21 ^{9/}	1	32 ^{14/}	8	57,660	70,019
<i>South</i>	5/10-11, 5/17-18, 6/7-8,	1	32 ^{14/}	8	<u>14,609</u>	<u>12,674</u>
<i>Central</i>	6/21-22 ^{15/}					
<i>Coast</i>	Total				248,901	198,751
2003 ^{11/}						
<i>North</i>	5/1 - 10/31 (7days/wk) ^{13/}	1	32 ^{14/}	184	19,797	1,110
<i>Central</i>	5/8-10, 5/15-17, 6/19-21	1	32 ^{14/}	9	156,835	88,385
<i>Coast</i>	8/1-2, 8/8-9 ^{9/}					
	8/22-10/18 (Fri-Sat) ^{9/}	1	32 ^{14/}	22	57,660 (125,815) ^{16/}	60,751
<i>South</i>						
<i>Central</i>	5/8-10, 5/15-17, 6/19-21 ^{15/}	1	32 ^{14/}	9	<u>14,609</u>	<u>14,904</u>
<i>Coast</i>						
	Total				248,901	165,150

1/ Quotas in 1988 and 1989 applied to both CA and OR; CA had a separate sub-quota in subsequent years.

2/ Season applies to entire state; there were no subareas.

3/ In 1988, there were no size limits from 4/1 to 6/15. From 6/16 to 7/6, a 32 inch minimum size was in effect.

4/ The size limit was minimum 32" for the first fish and minimum 50" for the second fish.

5/ There was not a specific quota in 1989, instead there were fixed seasons designed to harvest 57,000 lbs.

6/ This season applies to the subarea from Cape Falcon to the Nestucca River.

7/ This season applies to the subarea from the Nestucca River to the OR/CA border.

8/ This season applies to the area inside 30 fathoms from Cape Falcon to the OR/CA border.

9/ This season applies to the area from Cape Falcon to the OR/CA border through 1998, and from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain in 1999 and beyond (all depths - North Central and South Central Coast subareas combined.)

10/ The fishing days are not additive since some represent concurrent seasons. The total is the number of separate days.

11/ Oregon halibut tag required; annual limit of six halibut.

12/ This season was canceled inseason (in May) due to insufficient quota remaining to allow for one-day of fishing.

13/ This season applies to the area inside 30 fathoms.

14/ First halibut taken of 32" or greater in length

15/ Beginning in 2000, the inside-30-fathom fishery was combined for the North Central and South Central Coast subareas. Catch and number of open days reported under North Central subarea.

16/ The balance of halibut remaining from the May all-depth fishery in the North Central and South Central subareas, 68,155 lbs, was added to the August all-depth fishery quota of 57,660 lbs to get a revised quota of 125,815 lbs.

Sport Fishery Southern Oregon (south of Humbug Mountain) and in California

The sport fishery for Pacific halibut in the area south of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and in California is a non-target fishery with incidental catches of Pacific halibut primarily occurring in the Shelter Cove area. Because of the incidental nature of this sport fishery and small catch of halibut, the catch has not been monitored and no estimates of catch are available. IPHC catch statistics have assumed that the allocation was caught.

Table 3.13. California sport seasons, days open, and catch.						
YEAR	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	TOTAL DAYS OPEN	QUOTA	ACTUAL CATCH
1986	2/1 - 12/31 (7 days/wk)	2	none	334	none	?
1987	2/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	2	30	242	none	?
1988	4/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	2	none	183	^{1/}	?
1989	4/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	183	^{1/}	?
1990	4/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	183	2,000	?
1991	5/15 - 9/15 (7 days/wk)	1	32	123	1,700	?
1992	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	2,473	?
1993	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	2,281	?
1994	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	1,813	?
1995	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	2,785	?
1996	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	2,785	?
1997	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	3,750	?
1998	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	4,393	?
1999	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	4,698	?
2000	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	4,893	?
2001	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	6,809	?
2002	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	7,860	?
2003	5/1 - 9/30 (7 days/wk)	1	32	153	7,860	?

^{1/} Included with Oregon quota.